

MARK TWAIN
AND THE
MISSISSIPPI RIVER



BY: WONKYUNG (ALENA) KOO

BRIEF INTRODUCTION:

MARK TWAIN

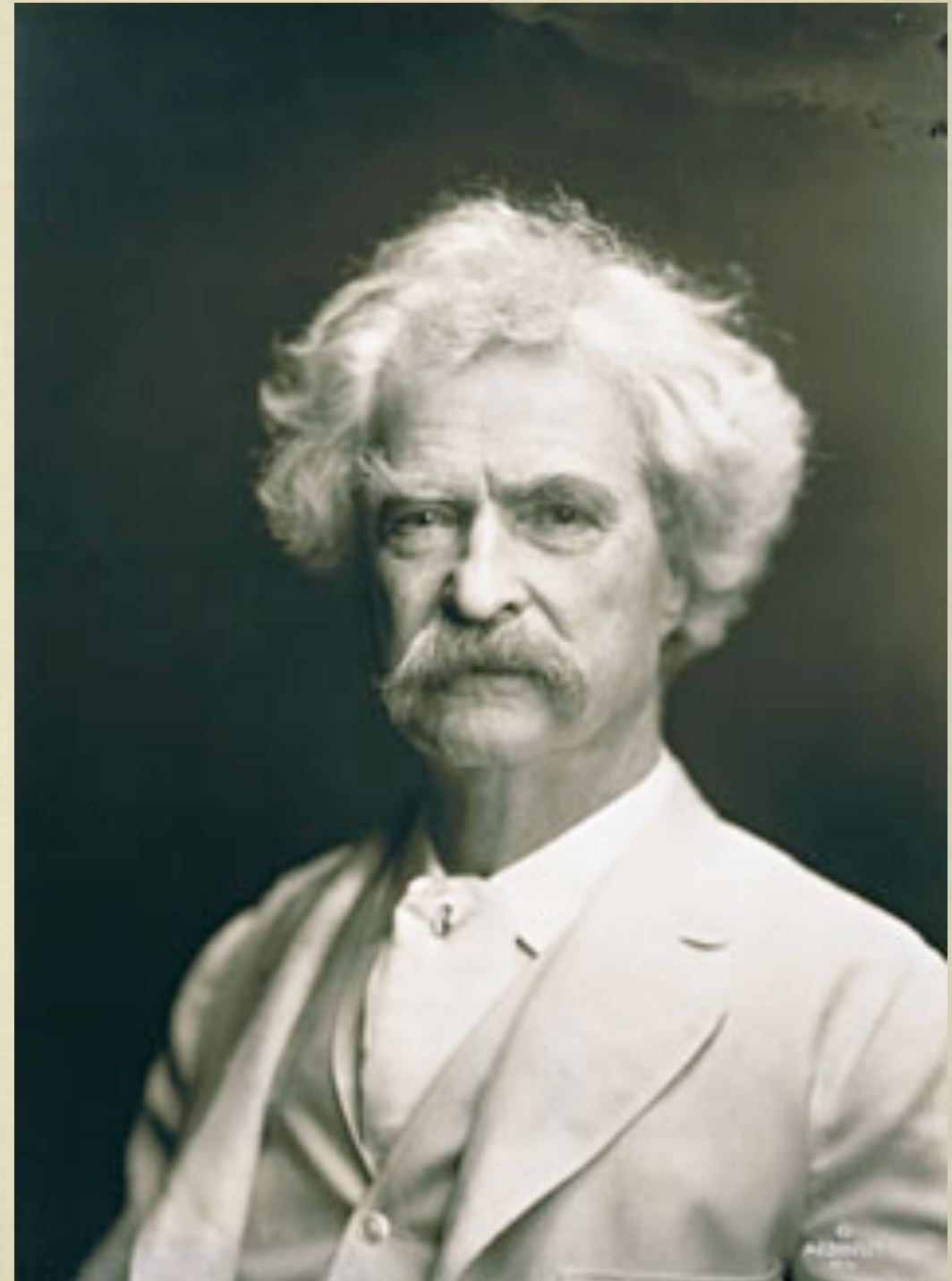
(SAMUEL CLEMENS)

- WAS BORN IN FLORIDA, MISSOURI HOWEVER LATER MOVED TO HANNIBAL.
- FROM AGES 4-15, HE LIVED AT HIS HOMETOWN OF HANNIBAL, MISSOURI.
- FIRST USED THE NAME "MARK TWAIN" IN FOR HIS WRITING ON FEBRUARY 1863.
- OFTEN SPENT TIME NEAR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
- WANTED TO BE A STEAMBOATMAN.
- BEFORE WORKING ON THE RIVER, HE WAS EMPLOYED TO WORK FOR THE HANNIBAL GAZETTE.



CONTINUED

- MEMORIZED THE RIVER AND EVENTUALLY RECEIVED A PILOT'S LICENSE.
- USUALLY IN THE HIGHEST POSITION, THE PILOT'S JOB WAS TO DIRECT THE BOAT ACCORDING TO THE CHANNELS.
- CIVIL WAR SHUT DOWN THE RIVER AND HE COULD NO LONGER CONTINUE HIS STEAMBOAT BUSINESS.
- HOWEVER, CONTINUED AS A WRITER AND JOURNALIST.
- LINK FOR THE AUDIO: [HTTP://WWW.PBS.ORG/MARKTWAIN/SCRAPBOOK/02_OLD_TIMES/PAGE1.HTML](http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page1.html)



THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

- ONE OF THE LONGEST RIVERS IN THE WORLD.
- DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS, NORTH, MIDDLE, AND SOUTH.
- UNIQUE RESOURCES AND IS A MULTI-PURPOSE RIVER.
- HOME TO VARIOUS FORMS OF FISH AND OTHER ANIMALS.
- HAD BEEN THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE U.S.



CONTINUED

- IN 1820, CONGRESS ALLOWED A CANAL TO BE BUILT THAT CONNECTED LAKE MICHIGAN AND ILLINOIS. BLOCKAGES TO THE RIVER WERE ALSO REMOVED.
- IN 1986, CONGRESS RECOGNIZED THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM BY MENTIONING IT'S IMPORTANCE TO THE ECOSYSTEM AND NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM.
- IMPORTANT BOTH HISTORICALLY AND NATIONALLY.
- WAS USED AS A BATTLEGROUND DURING THE CIVIL WAR.
- USED IN MANY WAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND THE TRANSPORT OF GOODS.



THE TWO CONNECT

- MARK TWAIN FREQUENTLY WROTE ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
- TWO BOOKS THAT INCLUDE MANY ASPECTS OF THE RIVER ARE TOM SAWYER, HUCKLEBERRY FINN, AND LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI.
- LIVED AND SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD NEAR THE RIVER AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI.
- PLAYED WITH HIS FRIENDS NEAR THE RIVER AND WATCHED STEAMBOATS.
- MANY OF HIS WORKS ARE INSPIRED BY HIS LIFE EXPERIENCES NEAR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
- HE ALSO CONTINUED TO VISIT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



ANY RELATION TO HUCK FINN?

WELL, YES!



- THE HOMETOWN OF MARK TWAIN AND THE RIVER INFLUENCED MANY OF HIS WORKS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN HUCKLEBERRY FINN AND TOM SAWYER, MANY OF THE SETTINGS AND PLOTS WERE BASED ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

■ THE FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCES THAT MARK TWAIN HAD ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, ALONG WITH BOATS, ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT INFLUENCED HIS STORIES, CHARACTERS, AND PLOTS.

■ MOST OF HIS IDEAS OR BACKGROUNDS FOR A STORY COME FROM HIS LIFE NEAR THE RIVER AND VARIOUS CHILDHOOD MEMORIES.

■ WITHOUT HIS PRIOR CONNECTION TO THE RIVER OR STEAMBOATS, HIS WORKS WOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT AND HIS STORIES MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AS GREAT AS THEY ARE TODAY.



VIDEO LINK

■ [HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?
V=RL9VBG21L6C&FEATURE=CHANNEL](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RL9VBG21L6C&feature=channel)

QUOTES AND ANALYSIS



- “I WENT UP AND SET DOWN ON A LOG AT THE HEAD OF THE ISLAND AND LOOKED OUT ON THE BIG RIVER AND THE BLACK DRIFTWOOD, AND AWAY OVER THE TOWN, THREE MILE AWAY, THERE WERE THREE OR FOUR LIGHTS TWINKLING.” (TWAIN, 27)
- THIS QUOTE IS SAID BEFORE HUCK LEAVES. HE LOOKS AT THE TOWN BUT ALSO THINKS ABOUT HIS DECISION TO LEAVE. HIS FINAL CHOICE IS TO JUST SAIL AWAY, HOWEVER, IT CAN ALSO SHOW THAT THE RIVER WILL TAKE HIM PLACES AND CHANGE HIM.

QUOTE AND ANALYSIS



- **“THE RIVER WENT ON RAISING AND RAISING FOR TEN OR TWELVE DAYS, TILL AT LAST IT WAS OVER THE BANKS. THE WATER WAS THREE OR FOUR FOOT DEEP ON THE ISLAND IN THE LOW PLACES AND ON THE ILLINOIS BOTTOM.”**
- **WITH THE RISING RIVER, IT CAN SHOW THAT THERE WILL BE A LOT MORE THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO HAPPEN TO HUCK. BY OVERFLOWING AND IT’S INCREASED DEPTH, IT ALSO SHOWS THAT THE PLOT CONTINUES TO THICKEN.**

QUESTIONS



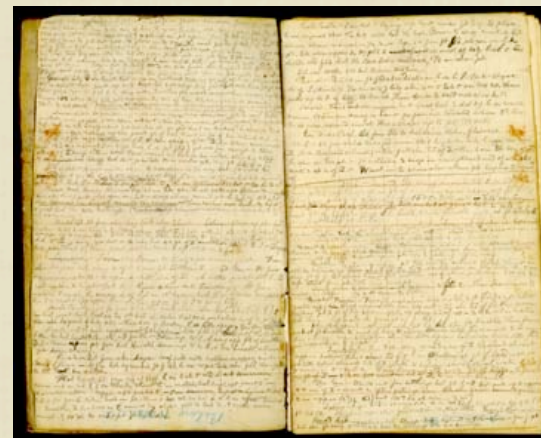
- HOW DO YOU THINK THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IMPACTED MARK TWAIN'S LIFE?
- HOW DO YOU THINK THE AUTHOR'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE RIVER AFFECTED HIS WRITING?
- WHY DID MARK TWAIN CONTINUE TO GO BACK TO VISIT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?

ANSWERS

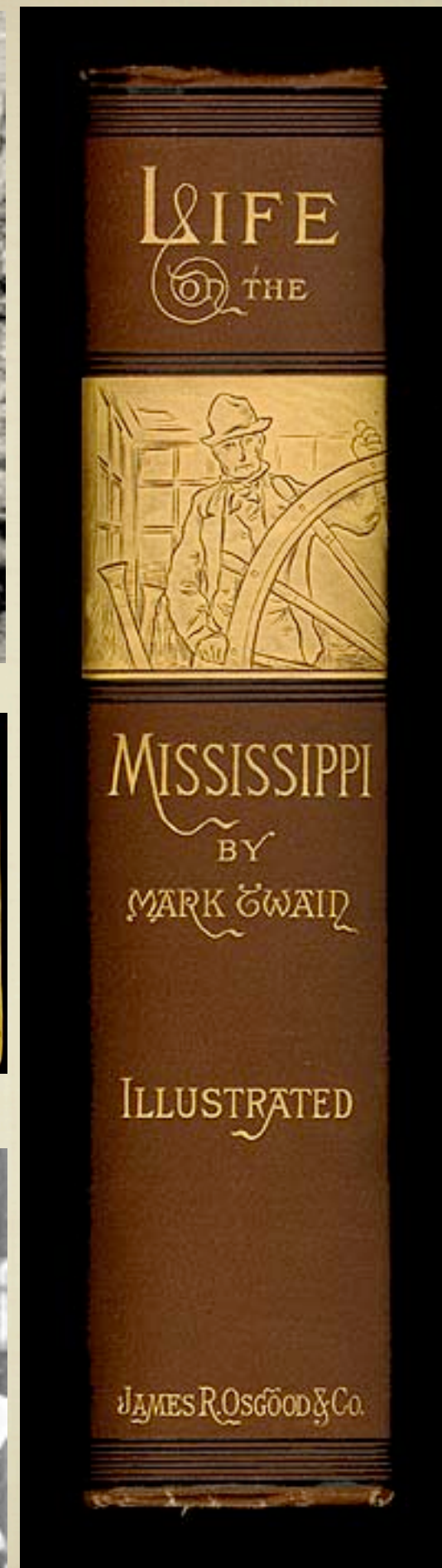
■ THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER CHANGED THE WAY MARK TWAIN THOUGHT ABOUT DIFFERENT SUBJECTS AND CREATED THE SCENE FOR MOST OF HIS STORIES.



■ THE AUTHOR'S WRITINGS INCLUDE MANY OF HIS EXPERIENCES AND WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE, HIS WORKS WOULD NOT HAVE SUCH A COMPLETE BACKGROUND.



■ MARK TWAIN CONTINUES TO GO BACK TO THE RIVER BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR THE AREA BUT ALSO TO RECEIVE NEW IDEAS AND PLOTS FOR HIS STORIES.



Extras :)

- “MARK TWAIN”, IS A TERM FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER THAT MEANS “MARK NUMBER TWO”. THIS WAS THE LINE THAT MARKED TWO FEET WHICH WAS A SAFE DEPTH FOR STEAMBOATS.
- MARK TWAIN’S BROTHER DIED DUE TO A STEAMBOAT ACCIDENT IN PENNSYLVANIA.
- SOME OF THE PRANKS THAT COME OUT FROM TOM SAWYER ARE THINGS THAT HE HAD ACTUALLY DONE DURING HIS CHILDHOOD.
- IT TOOK TWO YEARS FOR MARK TWAIN TO MEMORIZE THE RIVER FROM ST. LOUIS TO NEW ORLEANS.
- THE PEN NAME MARK TWAIN ORIGINALLY WAS FROM THE A RESPECTED RIVER PILOT, CAPTAIN SELLERS.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/index.html>.
- "UMESC - About the Upper Mississippi River System." Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/umesc_about/about_umrs.html>.
- "Mark Twain: Tom Sawyer Days: 1835-1853." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/01_tom_sawyer/index.html>.
- "Mark Twain at Large: The Mississippi River." The Bancroft Library. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/Exhibits/MTP/mississippi.html>>.
- "'Old Man River: Life Along the Mississippi River' an exhibit at the Hoover Library-Museum." The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <<http://hoover.archives.gov/exhibits/Mississippi/7twain.html>>.
- "Mark Twain: Chronology." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <<http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/learnmore/chronology.html>>.
- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page1.html>.
- "YouTube - Mark Twain: Background For His Works (clip)." YouTube - Broadcast Yourself. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RL9VbG21I6c&feature=channel>>.
- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page3.html>.
- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page4.html>.
- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page5.html>.
- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page6.html>.
- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page1.html>.
- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page2.html>.
- "Mark Twain: Old Times On The Mississippi: 1857-1860." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/scrapbook/02_old_times/page4.html>.
- "Mark Twain: Classroom Activities." PBS. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <<http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/learnmore/activities.html>>.